

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:  
  
automatically discovering counters for a remote device in a network;  
  
selecting at least one counter; and  
  
collecting data for each selected counter.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising predefining a number of counter group templates each comprising a plurality of counters.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the counter comprises selecting one of the predefined counter group templates.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically discovering the counters comprises automatically discovering performance objects, instances of the performance objects, and counters associated with the instances of performance objects for the remote device.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising instantiating the selected counters based on a predefined mapping of performance objects to counters.
6. The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the collected data for the counters in each counter group separately for the remote device.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a user to select one of a plurality of predefined views, each view defining how to organize the data for presentation.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising presenting the data to the user, in accordance with the selected view.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the automatic discovering, and the data collecting are performed in parallel.
10. A method, comprising:
  - allowing a user to select a counter group template containing at least one counter relating to a remote device in a network;
  - instantiating the at least one counter;
  - collecting data for the at least one counter; and
  - storing the collected data.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising allowing the user to select a predefined view containing a configuration for how the collected data should be presented.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising presenting the collected data based on the predefined view.

13. A method, comprising:  
for each tuple containing a counter and an object; and  
for at least one remote device in a network that has the particular object and counter contained in the tuple, automatically sampling the counter.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the sampling is based on a predefined sampling rate.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising saving the results of the sampling separately for the at least one remote device.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising creating a counter group comprising a plurality of counters, a sample period, and a sample buffer size.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the sampling is in accordance with the sample period.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising displaying sample data for each counter in a counter group, using a predefined view associated with the

counter group, the view containing a configuration for how the collected data should be presented.

19. A computer readable medium, having stored thereon a sequence of instructions, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

- automatically discovering counters for a remote device in a network;
- selecting at least one counter; and
- collecting data for each selected counter.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein automatically discovering the counters comprises automatically discovering performance objects, instances of the performance objects, and counters associated with the instances of performance objects for the remote device.

21. A computer readable medium, having stored thereon a sequence of instructions, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

- allowing a user to select a counter group template containing at least one counter relating to a remote device in a network;
- instantiating the at least one counter;
- collecting data for the at least one counter ; and

storing the collected data.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises allowing the user to select a predefined view containing a configuration for how the collected data should be presented.

23. A computer readable medium comprising a sequence of instructions, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

for each tuple containing a counter and an object; and

for at least one remote device in a network that has the particular object and counter contained in the tuple, automatically sampling the counter.

24. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the sampling is based on a predefined sampling rate.

25. A storage device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor cause the storage device to perform a method comprising:

automatically discovering counters for a storage device in a storage system;

selecting at least one counter; and  
collecting data for each selected counter.

26. The storage device of claim 25, wherein automatically discovering the counters comprises automatically discovering performance objects, instances of the performance objects, and counters associated with the instances of performance objects for the storage device.

27. A storage device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the storage device to perform a method comprising:

allowing a user to select a counter group template containing at least one counter relating to a storage device;

instantiating the at least one counter;

collecting data for the at least one counter ; and

storing the collected data.

28. The storage device of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises allowing the user to select a predefined view containing a configuration for how the collected data should be presented.

29. A storage device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which when executed by the processor, cause the storage device to perform a method comprising:

for each tuple containing a counter and an object; and

for at least one storage device in a storage system that has the particular object and counter contained in the tuple, automatically sampling the counter.

30. The storage device of claim 29, wherein the sampling is based on a predefined sampling rate.